

REMARKS

Present Status of Application

Claims 1, 9, 14-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 16-20 are allowed.

Claims 9-11, 14, and 15 are rejected.

Claims 12 and 13 are objected to.

Claim 9 has been amended.

Claim 21 has been added.

Claims 10-13 are deleted.

Rejection of Claim 9

Claims 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon ("Moon") U.S. 5,896,405 in view of Thomas et al. ("Thomas") US Publication No. 2002/0051498.

Objected Claim 12 has been combined with Claims 9 and 10, and objected Claim 13 has been combined with Claims 9 and 11, to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Applicants believe that the amended Claim 9 is patentable over Moon and Thomas, and therefore in condition for allowance. As Claims 14-20 depend from claim 9, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also allowable.

Applicants have combined Claims 9, 11 and 13 to form new Claim 21; since the Examiner indicated that Claim 13 was allowable, the Applicants believe that new Claim 21 is also in condition for allowance.

Applicants have made every effort to place the present application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the present application, as a whole, receive favorable consideration and that all of the claims be allowed in their present form.


Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joe McKinney Muncy Reg. No. 32,334 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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